

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-54. (Cancelled).

55. (New) An adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device, comprising:

a dessicant polymeric matrix containing a regenerable desiccant agent therein and having pressure-sensitive adhesive properties;

a support layer disposed on one side of said matrix; and

a release liner disposed on the other side of said matrix.

56. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein
said device further comprises a water-vapor-permeable layer.

57. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 56, wherein
the water-vapor-permeable layer is a support layer.

58. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein
the polymeric matrix comprises at least one polymeric material selected from the group
consisting of acrylates, silicones, polyisobutylens, SIS rubber, SEBS rubber,
polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyurethane, polyesters, polyethylene, polyvinylalcohol, polyamides,
ethylene-vinylacetate, polyacrylic acid, kollidon and cellulose derivatives thereof.

59. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the regenerative desiccant is selected from the group consisting of CaSO₄, CaSO₄ ½ H₂O, CaCl₂, Al₂O₃, CaO, Na₂SO₄, K₂CO₃, CuSO₄, Mg(ClO₄)₂, MgSO₄, silica gel and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

60. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the water-vapor-permeable layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of paper, cellulose, nonwovens and perforated films.

61. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the support layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and nonwovens.

62. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the release liner comprises a material selected from the group consisting of films containing polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and modifications thereof.

63. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more plasticizers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, miglyol, propane diol, triglycerides, diethyl phthalate and tributyl citrate.

64. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more tackifiers selected from the group consisting

of rosin esters, hydrogenated rosin esters and hydrocarbon resins.

65. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises a moisture indicator selected from the group consisting of copper (II) salts and cobalt (II) salts.

66. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 55, wherein the desicant comprises solid particles having a size of from 1 to 200 µm.

67. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 66, wherein the size of the solid particles is from 1 to 50µm.

68. (New) A method of reducing the moisture content and/or maintaining a reduced moisture content in a closed gas space surrounding a drying device, comprising the steps of:

- (a) converting a dessicant polymeric matrix comprising at least one regenerable desiccant in non-active form by activation into an active state and producing thereof a drying device as claimed in claim 55;
- (b) converting said drying device as claimed in claim 55 by activation into an active state;
- (c) removing a release liner from said activated drying device and placing said activated drying device into said closed gas space; and
- (d) closing said activated drying device in an airtight manner in said closed gas space.

69. (New) The method according to claim 68, wherein a closed gas space is formed by an air tight packaging of moisture-sensitive articles.

70. (New) The method according to claim 69, wherein the moisture-sensitive articles are selected from the group consisting of tablets, transdermal therapeutic systems and sheetform pharmaceutical administration forms for oral use.

71. (New) An adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device, comprising:

a dessicant polymeric matrix containing a regenerable dessicant therein;

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a support layer disposed on one or both sides of said matrix;

a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer; and

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a release liner covering said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

72. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein said device further comprises a water-vapor-permeable layer.

73. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 72, wherein the water-vapor-permeable layer is a support layer.

74. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix comprises at least one polymeric material selected from the group consisting of acrylates, silicones, polyisobutylens, SIS rubber, SEBS rubber,

polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyurethane, polyesters, polyethylene, polyvinylalcohol, polyamides, ethylene-vinylacetate, polyacrylic acid, kollidon and cellulose derivatives thereof.

75. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the regenerative desiccant is selected from the group consisting of CaSO_4 , $\text{CaSO}_4 \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2\text{O}$, CaCl_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO , Na_2SO_4 , K_2CO_3 , CuSO_4 , $\text{Mg}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$, MgSO_4 , silica gel and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

76. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the water-vapor-permeable layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of paper, cellulose, nonwovens and perforated films.

77. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the support layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and nonwovens.

78. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the release liner comprises a material selected from the group consisting of films containing polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene, paper and modifications thereof.

79. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more plasticizers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerol, miglyol, propane diol, triglycerides, diethyl phthalate and tributyl citrate.

80. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises one or more tackifiers selected from the group consisting of rosin esters, hydrogenated rosin esters and hydrocarbon resins.

81. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the polymeric matrix further comprises a moisture indicator selected from the group consisting of copper (II) salts and cobalt (II) salts.

82. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 71, wherein the desicant comprises solid particles having a size of from 1 to 200 µm.

83. (New) The adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device according to claim 82, wherein the size of the solid particles is from 1 to 50µm.

84. (New) A method of reducing the moisture content and/or maintaining a reduced moisture content in a closed gas space surrounding a drying device, comprising the steps of:

- (a) converting a dessicant polymeric matrix comprising at least one regenerable desiccant in non-active form by activation into an active state and producing thereof a drying device as claimed in claim 71;
- (b) converting said drying device as claimed in claim 71 by activation into an active state;
- (c) removing a release liner from said activated drying device and

placing said activated drying device into said closed gas space; and

(d) closing said activated drying device in an airtight manner in said closed gas space.

85. (New) The method according to claim 84, wherein a closed gas space is formed by an air tight packaging of moisture-sensitive articles.

86. (New) The method according to claim 85, wherein the moisture-sensitive articles are selected from the group consisting of tablets, transdermal therapeutic systems and sheet-form pharmaceutical administration forms for oral use.
